



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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4 AUGUST 1966

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1. Vietnam

U Thant feels that if Brezhnev is indeed running the show in the Soviet Union, "more serious developments" in Vietnam may follow.

In giving US officials a rundown on his recent visit to Moscow, Thant said that while both Kosygin and Brezhnev spoke in bitter terms about Vietnam and US policy, Brezhnev--whom he classified as a hawk--was much more militant.

Thant noted that only Brezhnev referred to "hundreds of thousands of volunteers ready to go to Vietnam at a moment's notice," and added that many of Brezhnev's remarks about President Johnson and the US were so bitter that he felt he should not pass them on.

It was Brezhnev's militancy, plus the general mood in Moscow, Thant said, which prompted the secretary general's public statements about the danger of a widening war. Otherwise there was "actually nothing new" in his conversations with the Soviet leaders.

2. France

De Gaulle is adamant against committing France to any agreement for US re-entry to bases and facilities in France except in time of an actual war in which France were taking part. Foreign Minister Couve de Murville seemed uncomfortable when he passed this word on to Ambassador Bohlen earlier this week. He came close to an admission that he could understand why the US would regard this as an unacceptable arrangement.

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3. Uruguay

Alberto Heber took another step yesterday that may well be intended to justify an unconstitutional take-over. He resigned "provisionally" as president of the National Council of Government, explaining that "obstacles" placed in his path have prevented him from governing effectively. He intends to address the nation on Saturday to detail his reasons.

This speech is likely to be a strong effort to picture himself as the public champion of governmental reform--a revamping which most Uruguayans want, but which bickering politicians are well on their way to torpedoing. Heber's political gambit may well be his last attempt to bring about the needed changes by legal means.

4. United Nations

The Soviets seem to have done some real arm-twisting during U Thant's trip to Moscow in an attempt to get him to stay on as secretary general. Both Brezhnev and Kosygin urged him insistently and persistently.

5. Pakistan

It is now clear that the Pakistanis have China to thank for a significant increase in the strength of their air force. More IL-28 jet light bombers and more MIGs have been sighted recently on Pakistani airfields. These are almost certainly from China.

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6. Congo

The Belgians are very close to a decision on at least partial disengagement from the Congo. Foreign Minister Harmel has ordered the Belgian ambassador home for consultation by 10 August. Before he leaves, he is to tell Mobutu in the "clearest possible terms" that Belgium "can no longer tolerate" Congolese hostility.

Anti-Belgian actions continue in the Congo and these can only reinforce Brussels' present stand.

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7. Philippines

The resurgence of terrorism in the old Huk guerrilla strongholds seems to be mainly a reaction to President Marcos' efforts to end lawlessness in the countryside. Remnants of the Huk movement, which was largely broken in the 1950s, have managed since then to develop a profitable alliance with gangsters and local political leaders in central Luzon.

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